



State of Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Administrative Policies and Procedures: 13.12

Subject: Substance Abuse Screening For Youth on Probation and Aftercare

Supersedes: DCS 13.12, 04/01/98

Local Policy: No

Local Procedures: No

Training Required: No

Applicable Practice Model Standard(s): Yes

Approved by:

Effective date: 04/01/98

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Application

To All Department of Children's Services Case Managers With Probation/Aftercare Responsibilities and Youth on Probation or Aftercare

Authority: TCA 37-1-110; 37-1-129; 37-1-131; 37-1-137; Rules of Juvenile Procedure 23, 32, 33

Policy

Substance abuse screening may be required for delinquent youth on probation/aftercare status as a condition of their supervision.

Procedures

A. Screening of youth on probation or aftercare

Youth on probation or aftercare that meet the following criteria may be identified as subjects for random drug screens:

1. Placed on supervision as a result of drug related offenses;
2. A history of prior drug related offenses;
3. A verified history of prior drug use/drug selling;
4. Parents, school officials, juvenile justice authorities or others involved with a student have expressed concerns about possible drug involvement; and

5. Observed behavioral changes, substantial changes in mood or affect.

B. Drug screening

1. Each region will ensure that it has the capability of securing drug screens for youth on probation/aftercare. Designated staff may administer drug screens or the region may choose to secure drug screens from other medical professionals.
2. If designated staff administers drug screens, urine samples must be taken in privacy and witnessed by a staff member of the same gender.
3. Designated staff members administering drug screens must be properly trained in the use of the drug screening materials. Training must be documented on the employees training record.
4. Youth being tested may have the opportunity to witness the screening procedure.
5. All test results shall be documented in the youth's case record.
6. All testing equipment must be disposed of properly by placing it in the infectious waste containers and disposed of at least once per week as outlined in DCS policy [23.4 Waste Management \(see section B\); and the Exposure Control Plan Manual](#). All collected waste shall be removed to an approved landfill or incinerator, either by staff or by a contractor as appropriate.

C. Purpose of screening

1. If a youth is on probation or aftercare, positive drug screens may be used as a basis for encouraging the youth and parents to seek appropriate treatment. Failure to seek treatment and frequent positive screens will be considered a major violation and the court will be notified.
2. When positive screens result in a violation report being filed with the court and a violation petition is requested, laboratory testing may be obtained to verify the screening results.
3. When a youth refuses to provide a urine sample or tampers with the sample, he/she may be petitioned to court for refusing to obey staff instructions or tampering with a urine sample. This information will be recorded on form *CS-0156, Violation Report*.

Forms

CS-0043	Rules of Probation
CS-0012	Rules of Aftercare
CS-0156	Violation Report

Collateral Documents

None

Standards

DCS Practice Model Standard – 6-300